

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Halley Park Board Room
August 11, 2016

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:30 pm on Thursday, August 11, 2016 with the following members present: Vice Chairman Karen Olson, Chuck Tinant, Shon Hanczyc, Greg Oleson and Domico Rodriguez. The following members were absent: Nick Stroot and Rick Askvig. Also present were City Council Liaison Jason Salamun, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler, Parks Division Manager Lon Van Deusen, Landscape Designer Alex DeSmidt, Parks Maintenance Chief Scott Anderson and Administrative Assistant Jeri Taton.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Minutes

Motion was made by Rodriguez seconded by Oleson and carried to approve the Advisory Board Minutes of July 14, 2016 as presented.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following addition:

7a) Recognition of donations from Stearns Foundation and Dermatology doctors

Liaison Reports

Van Deusen reported that the Urban Wildlife Committee met last week. Joel Tigner, who has a lot of experience with bats, attended the meeting. He is working with the Committee to build and locate bat houses in the park system.

Olson reported that the Beautification Committee met last week and the most significant discussion was to develop a new set of guidelines for the committee to operate under. The Committee will review the City's comprehensive plan and other plans and pick out items they can work on. Discussion on this topic will continue at future meetings.

Van Deusen reported that the Urban Forestry Board met this morning. The Dead/Diseased Tree Removal Program was not approved by the City Council so staff will need to decide how these issues will be handled. The Board is also working to finalize a recommended Tree List for the Rapid City area that will be available to landscape companies and individuals. Van Deusen also reported that Urban Forester Andy Bernard has surveyed the trees throughout the park system and identified 213 that need to be addressed at some level this winter. Bernard would like to get all 213 trees taken care of by January, 2017.

Beautification Committee Awards:

Director Biegler and Kathy Robeson from the Beautification Committee presented the following Yard of the Month Awards and commended the recipients for their hard work and efforts toward beautifying the community.

June – Marty and Annie Andrews

July – Karen Davis

August – Mary Kress

Front Porch Coalition

Biegler explained that Eric Press contacted the Department on behalf of the Front Porch Coalition about an idea to create a memorial plaza in Memorial Park. A letter was submitted asking that the Parks and Recreation Department help the Front Porch Coalition to make this idea a reality. To have a place of relaxation where community members can remember their loved ones and have a permanent keepsake is a great way to bring all members of the community together. The memorial plaza would be constructed using bricks purchased by individuals and inscribed with a loved one's name. No one was present to answer questions from the Board members. Biegler stated that staff will continue to work with this group on their proposal.

Urban Wildlife Committee

A letter from the Urban Wildlife Committee relative to feeding of wildlife was presented. Biegler explained that this is in response to a request from Alderman Jerry Wright who was contacted by a citizen who has an issue with wild turkeys damaging his yard. Alderman Salamun noted that in his opinion this issue is from a couple citizens that want something done about the turkeys. He added that there have been several property owners that love the turkeys and don't want anything changed. Biegler added that the Department keeps a log of wildlife complaints and each year we get a couple comments from the same people who would like something done about wild turkeys. Van Deusen noted that John Kanta from the SD Game, Fish & Parks Dept. has also been contacted by these individuals. He noted that at some point in time people living in this area have probably fed the turkeys and that is what keeps them coming back; even if they are not currently being fed. Motion was made by Hanczyc seconded by Rodriguez and carried to support the findings of the Urban Wildlife Committee as they relate to feeding of wildlife in Rapid City.

Recognition Event

Olson stated that she would like to see the City publicly recognize the Stearns Foundation and the doctors from the Skin Institute for their contributions to the City in the form of plant materials and the shade structure at Parkview Tennis complex respectively. It was the consensus of those present that a recognition event will be put on the Agenda for the October meeting of the Advisory Board.

Director's Report

Van Deusen noted that seasonal employees are beginning to leave as school will be starting soon. Also, the contractor submitted notice to terminate the contract for restroom custodial services at the end of July so Parks staff will have to pick up this effort for the remainder of the season. The Parks Division also sponsored a maintenance school a couple weeks ago which included information on trail building and trail maintenance.

Aaron Weeks was hired as the new Greenhouses Specialist, and staff has been using the moss boat to remove aquatic vegetation from Canyon Lake.

Biegler presented a report from Recreation Specialist Kristy Lintz on the 2016 Fat Tire Festival and submitted copies for the Board Members' information.

Biegler added that the City will begin accepting project proposals for the Vision Fund soon. The Parks and Recreation Department is considering the following projects for submittal:

- Dinosaur Hill Improvements
- Golf Course Bridge Replacement
- Land Acquisition in Founders Park, and
- Field House to be located between Ice Arena and Swim Center

Biegler reported that Mayor Allender has submitted the proposed FY2017 Budget to the City Council for consideration. The current proposal includes two additional FTEs for the Parks Division; a park maintenance worker and an electrician.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.